



Interior manages an extensive infrastructure to meet the needs of some 379 million visitors who visit and enjoy national parks, national wildlife refuges, and other public lands and facilities on an annual basis. Some of the structures that Interior manages are over 100 years old and are important landmarks. Some were built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s. Some were erected in the 1950s and 1960s as part of the "Mission 66" program. Faced with increasing visitation, an aging infrastructure, and threats to natural and cultural resources, our parks, public lands, and refuges face serious rehabilitation and repair needs. The 2000 budget builds on the 1999 program. Each of the land management bureaus has formulated and will present a plan laying out the most critical construction and maintenance needs to be accomplished over the next five years. The Bureau of Indian Affairs has a similar plan for education construction.

Well-maintained facilities are critical to safe enjoyment of the Nation's resources by visiting publics as well as to ensure that the Department's 45,000 employees have safe working conditions and that the 53,000 students attending BIA schools are safe in their classrooms. In 1999, the Department began an aggressive Safe Visits to Public Lands Initiative to improve management and accountability for the Department's infrastructure and focus maintenance and construction funding on the highest priority critical health and safety and resource protection needs. Details of the 2000 construction budget are located in Appendix C.

### **A Five Year Plan**

Responding to a call to action by Chairman Ralph Regula, the Department has developed a five year plan that provides a framework for improved planning and management to maintenance and construction programs and better defines accumulated deferred maintenance funding needs. In developing the five year plan, the Department established uniform criteria for critical health and safety and resource projects, and through rigorous screening, prioritized the projects based on these criteria. Maintenance and construction projects in the five year plan are ranked in accordance with established criteria, with greatest emphasis applied to deferred maintenance needs in critical health and safety and resource protection.

For the first time, the Department is using standard definitions of facilities terms and data, and as a result, will be able to present more consistent and credible descriptions of its maintenance and construction needs, capital investments, goals, and priorities. Data developed during formulation of the plan and through the annual updates will provide a greatly improved foundation for making facilities management decisions. Rather than a static plan, the five year plan will be updated annually to reflect changes as projects shift in priority and new needs are identified.

Through the Safe Visits Initiative, the Department has improved its understanding of the scope of deferred maintenance and can monitor progress toward correcting health and safety and resource deficiencies at Departmental facilities. The Department is: implementing a facilities assessment process; updating the facilities inventory; tracking the Federal Accounting Standards; and instituting a review of facilities-related information systems to identify user needs and functional requirements and to assess the potential for sharing common system approaches.

Concurrent with developing a five year plan, improvements to the budget structure will enable the Department to track funding for the Safe Visits Initiative and report on the effectiveness of facilities management programs more accurately.

### Maintenance and Construction Funding Needs

In 2000, the total requested in support of year one of the five year plan is \$910.1 million, consisting of \$555.8 million in maintenance and \$354.3 million in construction.

At \$555.8 million, the maintenance request is \$48.5 million higher than the 1999 enacted level. Excluding the \$1.5 million first time USGS request for its facilities, the 9.3 percent increase in funds accelerated repair and rehabilitation of facilities.

<b>SAFE VISITS TO PUBLIC LANDS</b>	
(dollars in millions)	
<b>Maintenance</b>	
BLM.....	60.5
USGS .....	1.5
FWS .....	52.7
NPS .....	<u>441.1</u>
Subtotal.....	555.8
<b>Construction</b>	
BLM.....	8.3
FWS .....	43.6
NPS .....	194.0
BIA Education .....	<u>108.4</u>
Subtotal.....	354.3
<b>Total .....</b>	<b><u>910.1</u></b>



Funding is requested to address over 700 projects, including the following:

- At Rachel Carson NWR, Maine, Biddeford Pool House contains friable asbestos pipe insulation posing a danger to employees and limiting the use of this structure. FWS will remove the asbestos and replace the insulation at Biddeford Pool House.
- At Bryce Canyon NP, Utah, NPS will remediate an aging sewage treatment system in need of repair because it does not meet State requirements for sewage treatment or groundwater protection, cannot adequately process the volume of effluent produced in the park, and has been damaged by prairie dog burrowing.
- At Parker Strip, Arizona, BLM will demolish and replace 15 picnic enclosures that are seriously deteriorated. In their present condition, these structures have split and loose boards, which are falling and pose a hazardous situation for the public using this picnic area.



Construction requests, excluding those of the BOR, total \$354.3 million, reflecting a combined \$45.3 million decrease in BLM, FWS, and NPS with a \$48.0 million increase in BIA education. Individual requests for construction in the land-managing bureaus include: \$43.6 million for FWS; \$194.0 million for NPS; and \$8.3 million for BLM. The BIA funding request for education construction is described further in the following chapter.

The physical inventory of the 378 unit National Park System includes 16,000 permanent structures, 8000 miles of roads, 1,500 bridges and tunnels, 5,000 housing units, about 1,500 water and wastewater systems, 200 radio systems, over 400 dams, and more than 200 solid waste operations.

The 516 units of the National Wildlife Refuge system include an infrastructure to support public use and wildlife management programs with over 4,000 buildings, 6,500 miles of roads, 2,700 miles of dikes, and thousands of water control structures.

The BLM maintains approximately 2,500 buildings, 600 administrative sites, 1,600 recreation sites, 61,000 miles of roads, 280 bridges, and 11,000 miles to trails to support the visiting public.

The BIA has 7,300 buildings containing 28 million square feet of space, including 2,183 education and associated buildings at 185 schools servicing 53,000 students. The BIA also maintains over 24,000 miles of road.